



The major event of the week was the Senate's proposed budget, [SB 744](#) Appropriations Act of 2014. As of Friday afternoon, the plan is for the Senate to go into Session at 4 p.m., taking floor amendments to its budget, then have 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading sometime tonight, with 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading early Saturday morning. The House will then formally take up its budget work next week, although House Appropriations members have been working on their budget priorities for weeks now. Key budget analyses, including a Comparison of the 2014-15 Proposed Budgets, the current Senate Budget, Impact on Allotments of the Senate Budget, the Senate's proposed Salary Schedules, the Governor's Budget and more are here:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/budget/>

Some highlights of the proposed Senate Budget include:

Salary Adjustments:

1. A new \$468.7 million "Professional Status Teacher Salary Schedule" plan where those paid on this new schedule would receive an average of an 11.2% increase (ranges from 1.7% to 20% for individuals). This salary increase is conditional upon the teacher giving up his/her right to career status (or "teacher tenure") and longevity benefits. This proposal would increase the guaranteed starting educator pay to a minimum of \$33,000 annually. Individuals not opting to accept the conditions of this schedule will continue to be paid on the current salary schedule (no raise).
2. Additional funding necessary to restore graduate degree pay (\$18,700,000).
3. The school building administrator's salary schedule would be separated from the teacher's salary schedule. School building administrators (assistant principals and principals) would receive a step increase in addition to a small increase to most steps (average of 2% raise).
4. All other public school employees will receive a \$500 annual salary increase.

Other Adjustments:

1. A \$233.2 million reduction in funding for teaching assistants in kindergarten through third grade. The remaining allotment would be based on ADM in grades K and 1 only.
2. Textbook funding, at less than \$15 per child, would not be increased.
3. No additional funding for instructional supplies or technology.
4. State funding for local school district central offices would be reduced 5%.

5. The school transportation general fund appropriation would be reduced by \$28.6 million, and those funds would be replaced by the highway fund receipts that supported driver training. This adjustment would require either the elimination of driver training or a significant reduction to school bus operations, or both.
6. Grades 2 and 3 teacher allotments would remain at 1 teacher per 18 students (rather than be reduced to 1:17 as funded last year).
7. Funding through DHHS supporting 70 school nurses is eliminated, and the 166 remaining School Nurse Funding Initiative nurses will be reallocated to Tier 1 counties only.
8. A reduction to the Department of Public Instruction by 30%.

Another event of the week was the ratification of [SB 786](#) Energy Modernization Act. One relevant portion for public school transportation provides that the Department of Administration and DPI shall allow any fuel option to be considered for the award of a school bus contract, including diesel, propane, liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas and electricity.

### **Key Committee Meetings: May 27 – May 29**

#### House Education Committee

[HB 1040](#) Improve Administrative Program Monitoring at DPI came up “for discussion only.” The Committee did not vote on this bill. Several members of the Committee expressed concerns about the school bus transportation components of the bill, as this would shift much of the transportation burden to the LEAs.

#### [HB 1060](#) Military Student Identifier

This passed the House unanimously on Wednesday. It would require SBE to develop a process for LEAs to identify military-connected students using the Uniform Education Reporting System in order to provide these students with appropriate education services. This bill will next go to the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education.

[HB 1062](#) Schematic Diagrams and Keys of Schools was rescheduled for the House Education Committee for next week on Tuesday.

#### Senate Education/Higher Education Committee

#### [HB 230](#) Clarify Read to Achieve/School Performance Grades

This would make changes to *Read to Achieve* and the A-F School Performance Grades law. This bill passed the Committee on Wednesday and the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday. On Thursday evening, the Senate passed the bill after a floor amendment failed. The amendment would have reduced the 36 reading passages required in the student reading portfolio to 24.

This bill would require SBE to provide alternative assessments to LEAs upon request, approve LEA submitted alternative assessments, establish achievement level ranges for each approved alternative assessment, and annually review all alternative assessments to ensure ongoing relevance, validity, and reliability.

The timeline requirements for Summer Reading Camps would be more flexible and would allow for a minimum of 72 hours of reading instruction over a period of 3 weeks; the current requirement is a minimum of 6 weeks. Students who are exempt from mandatory retention under the good cause exemptions would be eligible to participate in the reading camps. Exemptions for students with disabilities would be expanded to include those who use the NCEXTEND1 alternative assessment, those who are at least 2 school years behind in educational performance, or those who have received intensive reading interventions for at least 2 school years. These exemptions would apply to all public schools, including charters.

The requirements for enrollment in a summer reading camp would change. Parents or guardians of students not demonstrating reading proficiency would be encouraged, rather than required, to enroll their student in the camps. LEAs must provide at least 1 opportunity for non-enrolling students to demonstrate reading proficiency via an approved alternative assessment or reading portfolio prior to retaining the student. Additionally, the bill clarifies that a principal may promote a student demonstrating proficiency, even after the midyear promotion cutoff date of November 1.

A new section would allow those students demonstrating proficiency to also enroll in reading camps. If they do, the LEA may charge an attendance fee equal to the per student program cost, not to exceed \$825. LEAs must give priority enrollment to those not demonstrating proficiency. Students with disabilities, who qualify for a good cause exemption, may enroll in the camp free of charge.

SBE would be directed to implement developmental screening (in literacy and mathematics) in 50% of LEAs during the 2014-15 school year, and in all LEAs by the 2015-16 school year, with additional components of the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) fully implemented by the 2016-17 school year. Also, the KEA would need to yield both qualitative and quantitative data. Relevant data obtained by the KEA would be used in a longitudinal database and the literacy component would be used as a formative and diagnostic reading assessment.

For the A-F School Performance Grades that will be issued this fall, the school achievement score would employ a composite approach, applying the calculation based on the total number of students meeting standards over total number of students included in all indicators. With this calculation, a school's grade will not be disproportionately impacted by an indicator that has very few students (e.g., high schools with very few students participating in ACT WorkKeys). Furthermore, if a school is meeting growth and the school's growth score depresses the achievement score and grade, then just the achievement score may be used to calculate total performance. For the 2013-14 school year, the 100-point scale used to determine a school's grade will use 15-point intervals, with 85-100 being an "A" and any score below 40 being an "F."

Finally, this bill would allow LEAs to apply for a waiver to SBE for the 2014-15 school year only, to add 5 additional testing days for end-of-course and end-of-semester testing. LEAs must apply for a waiver to SBE by September 1, 2014, and will be notified by October 1, 2014, if the waiver is granted.

## **Other Relevant Bills with Action this Week**

### **House Bills**

[HB 725](#) Young Offenders Rehabilitation Act (Avila, Moffitt, Mobley, D. Hall)

- Passed the House on Wednesday, May 21, 2014
- Held in Senate Clerk's office

### **Senate**

[SB 734](#) Regulatory Reform Act of 2014 (Wade, Jackson, Brock)

- Passed Senate yesterday, May 29, 2014
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[SB 815](#) Ensuring Privacy of Student Records (Barefoot, Brock, Soucek)

- Withdrawn from Senate Judiciary I Committee
- Re-referred to Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education
- If favorable, re-referred to Senate Judiciary I Committee

[SB 842](#) (HB 1208) Governor's Budget (Harry Brown, Harrington, Hunt)

- Referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget

## **Bills Filed this Week**

### **House**

[HB 1219](#) Funds for Wilson Academy of Innovation (S. Martin, Johnson, Horn)

This would appropriate \$150,000 from the General Fund for the Wilson Academy of Applied Innovation, a high school focusing on innovation and technology to prepare students for a career in manufacturing. The funds appropriated would be available for school construction or renovation of school property. This bill states the intent, beginning with school year 2015-16, to allocate recurring funds to the school equal to the amount allocated to each cooperative innovative high school.

- Referred to House Committee on Appropriations

[HB 1243](#) STEM Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (Hanes, Lambeth, Holloway, Ramsey)

This bill would establish a forgivable loan program for prospective STEM and special education teachers. HB 1243 would establish the North Carolina STEM and Special Education Scholars Program to be administered by The State Education Assistance Authority. The Program would provide forgivable loans up to \$5,000 per year for service to exemplary high school seniors who are committed to working as teachers of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or special education.

- Referred to House Committee on Appropriations

[HB 1246](#) Armed Detention Officers/Forsyth County (Hanes, Lambeth, Terry)

HB 1246 is a local bill involving Forsyth County and provides that the law prohibiting weapons on campus or other educational property (G.S. 14-269.2) would not apply to an armed detention officer when the officer is discharging his/her official duties.

## Senate Bills

### [SB 849](#) Clarify Regional School CIHS Applications (Brown)

SB 849 would clarify the cooperative innovative high school programs application process for regional schools and grant 1 year cooperative innovative high school status to the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience. The bill would also provide funding for higher education tuition costs for students enrolled at the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience.

- Referred to Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education
- If favorable, re-referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget

### [SB 850](#) ([HB 67](#)) Permanent License Plates/Charter Schools (Sanderson)

This legislation would make charter schools eligible to receive permanent registration plates.

- Referred to Senate Committee on Transportation

### [SB 852](#) NBPTS Bonus for Teachers in Title I Schools (Barringer)

SB 852 would allow instructional coaches in Title I schools with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification to receive the appropriate compensation bonus (12%), even if they are not engaged in classroom instruction with students. The bill appropriates \$343,722 to provide the NBPTS bonuses.

- Referred to Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education
- If favorable, re-referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget

### [SB 857](#) Task Force/Erin's Law (Robinson, Goolsby)

This legislation would establish the Legislative Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children. The Task Force would gather information concerning the occurrence of child sexual abuse throughout the State, identify statewide goals to prevent child sexual abuse, examine an age-appropriate curriculum on the subject of sexual abuse, and identify methods for increasing awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children.

- Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary I
- If favorable, re-referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget

### [SB 860](#) Public School Changes (Tarte)

This would extend the testing window for public school semester courses, increase the weight of school growth in the A-F School Performance Grades, change the 25%/4-year contract law, and decrease the minimum terms for administrators' contracts.

The bill would require SBE to establish policies and guidelines necessary for minimizing the time students spend taking tests and for minimizing the frequency of field testing at any one school. The bill would mandate that all annual assessments and final exams be administered within 15 (currently 5) instructional days of the semester for semester-long courses. Exceptions would be permitted for students on IEPs and for the administration of final exams for courses with national or international curricula required to be held at designated times.

On the A-F School Performance Grades, the bill would change the achievement/growth ratio from 80/20 to 50/50. If a school has met expected growth and the inclusion of the school's growth score reduces the school's performance score and grade, a school can use the school achievement score alone to calculate the performance score and grade.

SB 860 would change the 25%/4-year contract law to only pertain to "classroom teachers" and to require superintendents' review of performance and evaluations from "prior school years," rather than just the past 3 consecutive years.

This legislation provides that the initial contract between a school administrator and an LEA would be for 1 - 4 years (rather than the current 2 – 4 year initial contract requirement). In the case of a subsequent contract for such an administrator, the contract would be for a term of 1 - 4 years (previously a required 4-year contract).

### **Meetings: June 3-5**

Tuesday, June 3

10:00 AM House Education Committee, 643 LOB  
HB 1150 Education Longitudinal Data System Changes  
HB 1062 Schematic Diagrams and Keys of Schools  
SB 370 Respect for Student Prayer/Religious Activity

Wednesday, June 4

10:00 AM Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education, 544 LOB  
SB 777 Eliminate Obsolete Boards and Commissions  
SB 812 Replace Common Core to Meet NC's Needs  
SB 815 Ensuring Privacy of Student Records

As always, when you have concerns or information to share with your legislators on any of this legislation or otherwise, please contact them at your earliest convenience. Such contact information can be found here: <http://www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>.

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